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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
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HALL SCALE

NATURE OF THE PEST

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The Hall scale, probably of Mediterranean origin, is believed to have been introduced inadvertently by the United States Plant Introduction Gardens near Chico, California, in 1934. In its immature stages this small sucking insect attacks the buds of almond, peach, nectarine, and plum trees. It multiplies rapidly, producing many generations a year. Although it cannot fly, it is extremely difficult to control when inhabiting crevices in the bark of trees. Federal-State cooperative control was begun in 1941. The only known infestations in the United States occur in California in the vicinity of Chico and Davis.

CROPS AFFECTED

The Hall scale is a serious pest of almond, peach, nectarine, plum and other stone fruits.

DAMAGE AND ESTIMATED LOSSES

Heavy infestations of Hall scale attack all parts of the trees weakening their vigor. The immature or crawler stage of the pest attacks the buds resulting in disfigured and unmarketable fruit. An infestation at Davis, California, in recent years damaged about 25 per cent of a peach crop, even though the trees had been sprayed with an oil emulsion the preceding winter. If allowed to spread, the scale could survive in most of the almond and peach areas of California and elsewhere.

CONTROL PROGRAM

The purpose of the current program is to eradicate the Hall scale and to prevent its spread and establishment in the extensive stone fruit growing sections of the country. This is accomplished by the application of oil sprays, removal and destruction of infested seedlings and abandoned trees, and by fumigation. Fumigation requires three consecutive years to accomplish eradication.

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORITY

Hall scale control is authorized under the Organic Act of 1944, as amended (7 U.S.C. 147a).

July 7, 1954



